



BIRD ON A WIRE

DAVID QUINLAN gives
his verdict on the teaming
of **MEL GIBSON** and
GOLDIE HAWN in an
action comedy

● MEL GIBSON came to his new film, which pairs him with Goldie Hawn, straight from the completion of *Lethal Weapon 2*. In *Bird On A Wire*, Gibson plays Rick, a man

amusing, and added some great ideas in regard to our relationship in the film."

"What's unusual about this movie," adds co-star Goldie, "is that it deals with relationships that end at an early age,

and the 'what ifs' that come after. What if I met my first boyfriend again – would I *still* love him?

Would we *still* make it?

How different am I 15 years later?

I like that aspect of the story.

And it has bits of everything in

it – comedy, action and

romance. These two people have

an old-fashioned romance.

It's filled with hopes and dreams.

What happens to them now makes

for an interesting combination

of romance and action chases."

Director John Badham and producer Rob Cohen agreed

that Mel and Goldie were

their dream team to star as

the two lovers who rediscover their

old passion on the run. "It's very

rare," confesses Badham, "that

you read a script, imagine two

stars in the lead roles and actually

wind up with those two people.

This is one of those rare

occasions where our first choices were the people we got – and they were equally

excited about working with each other.

"Although *Bird On A Wire* is about two

people finding each other again," says Bad-

ham, "it's also about someone who finds

courage. Rick's been avoiding being coura-

geous. He's been avoiding facing up to his

life for many years – and now he finally has

to do something about it."

suddenly forced to confront his past when an old girlfriend and a ruthless pack of killers catch up with him at the same time.

"The whole tone of this film is a lot lighter than the *Lethal Weapon* movies," Gibson contends. "This is funny and warm. I've always been afraid to try things like that, but I thought I'd just dive in and see what happened.

"Also, working opposite Goldie Hawn was a real treat. She's spontaneous and



RATINGS **PERFORMANCES** 5 **DIRECTION** 5
SCRIPT 4 **PRODUCTION** 6 **ENTERTAINMENT VALUE** 4

VERDICT

● For a mainline megastar movie, this is uncomfortably unconvincing. Ruthlessly formula, predictable and empty-headed, it raises very little chemistry between Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn, whose hearts barely seem to be in it, and completely wastes David Carradine as the villain, not giving him a single decent scene.

Nothing somehow seems real, and we never quite figure out why Mel is on the run after spending 15 years as a relocated witness (equally difficult to work out the reason for this in the first place).

The final shoot-out in the zoo begins very promisingly, but goes on too long. It's one of those action-comedy-romances that sometimes work a treat – just think of *Charade!* – but this one suffers under the uncharacteristically jerky direction of John Badham and from characters who just aren't given dialogue that will supply the vital dimensions of life. What a waste of Mel and Goldie!

Producer
ROB COHEN

Director
JOHN BADHAM

Screenplay
DAVID SELTZER / LOUIS VENOSTA /
ERIC LERNER

Photography
ROBERT PRIMES

Music
HANS ZIMMER

116 Minutes – Certificate 15
(UIP-UNIVERSAL)

Rick Jarmin	MEL GIBSON
Marianne Graves	GOLDIE HAWN
Eugene Sorenson	DAVID CARRADINE
Albert Diggs	BILL DUKE
Rachel Varney	JOAN SEVERANCE
Joe Weyburn	STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY
Marvin	HARRY CAESAR
Lou Baird	JEFF COREY
Raun	ALEX BRUHANSKI
Mr Takawaki	CLYDE KUSATSU